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# Latham Baseball Complex

Furman University

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## Latham Baseball Complex

### A home run for baseball

**O**n May 11, 2013, the Furman baseball team celebrated the opening of a new complex focused on improving the team experience, including a \$2 million clubhouse with spacious indoor batting cages, coaches' offices and locker rooms. The new facility is located along the right field line just beyond the field of play.

With a record number of wins in 2013 and two of its top recruiting classes ever, it has already become a symbol to the recruits and to the baseball community at large of Furman's commitment to the program.

Plans are in place for significant upgrades to the grandstand and press box as donations become available.



### Blue Shoes

### Moving the decimal point

**C**hris Borch '78 believes that with the right tools, anything is possible. It's how he started his cross country career at Furman as a walk-on and ended it with a track scholarship, and it's how he started a global company, Micro-Mechanics. He had the right tools at the right time. And he had the motivation to use them.

"Before I came to Furman, I had never been in an environment where there was such a high standard of performance, on and off the field, and so I knew, at some point, I would give back."

That giving back came in the form of the Blue Shoes scholarship fund. Blue Shoes (named for the pair of shoes Borch received from his coach on the first day of practice his freshman year) provides scholarships for Furman's cross country and track and field student-athletes. The initial gift of \$250,000 to the endowment in 2005 has now been funded to \$3.5 million. "My goal is always to move the decimal one place to the right. And to create sustainable programs, it's imperative that it happens. We want this endowment to exist in perpetuity and if we move the decimal point just one more place, that would be \$30 million long term. We can do that."

Another initiative Borch is working on is a leadership



*Chris Borch '78, long-standing supporter of the Cross Country and Track and Field programs.*





## one place to the right: Chris Borch '78

program that he's devised to help Furman athletes succeed beyond the field and take the lessons they learn in school and apply them to real life.

"This year we're implementing a program that can be applied across all athletics, all disciplines, every aspect of Furman life. It's essentially six timeless lessons for life, and the first seminars for our runners rolled out in early February."

Borch is also very involved with the team as an alumni supporter, talking on a regular basis with the coaches, runners and other fellow alumni to ensure that the athletes are getting the support they need.

Plus, twice a year, Borch, together with Furman, hosts the Blue Shoes 5K in the fall and a mirrored track and field event in the spring, which often features world-class runners and track and field athletes.

"We want to have the best cross country program in the country. I know from experience that you really gain invaluable life lessons when you pursue athletics diligently and purposefully. It is an ideal. But it's one worth pursuing. My life would have been entirely different without Furman athletics. It's great to be in a position to give those opportunities to other men and women."

## A record year for cross country

The Furman men's and women's cross country teams swept the team titles at the Southern Conference Cross Country Championships in November of 2013—the first time both teams have claimed simultaneous wins. Furman head coach Robert Gary was honored as the 2013 SoCon Coach of the Year for both the men's and women's programs.

### #WhyFurmanMatters

Furman helped me unleash the forces that led me to develop my full potential.

—CHRIS BORCH '78